

BIG FUNKY HAT



Materials: Schoeller-Stahl Big Mexiko Color 100% wool superwash – 2 skeins. US 6 size 16" circulars, US 6 dpn
Gauge: 18 st over 4 inches in circular stockinette

Hat main body: With 16" circular needle, CO 101; join ends, being careful not to twist. Place marker. Rd 1-2: knit. Rd 3-5: k1, p1 around (seed stitch). Rd 6: k2tog once to decrease; knit around (100 stitches). Continue in stockinette (knit every round) until hat measures 5" from bottom edge.

Begin decreases for crown as follows: k8, k2tog around, end k2tog (90 stitches). Knit three rows. Next row, k7, k2tog around, end k2tog (80). Continue to decrease every fourth row, changing to dpns when necessary. When 20 stitches are left on the needles (after the eighth decrease), knit four rows and then k2tog around. Next row, k2tog around; five stitches on needles. Decrease these 5 stitches to 3 (k2tog, k1, k2tog), work i-cord for 6"; bind off. Attach tassel to end.

Ear flaps (optional, but you know it just won't be the same funky hat without them): With wrong side facing, pick up 23 st at bottom edge of hat, centering stitches over the first stitch in the border. In seed stitch (k1, p1) work one row. Work next row k1, p1 (wrong side). Next row (right side), ssk, continue seed stitch pattern (knit the purls and purl the knits) across until last two stitches, k2tog. Continue to work in seed stitch, working wrong side rows even and decreasing both edges of right side rows using ssk and k2tog. When 3 stitches remain, knit i-cord for 12 inches, bind off. Work the other ear flap on the opposite side.

Hint: Big Mexiko skeins are not always wound with the color pattern going in the same direction. If this matters to you, you may have to rewind the skein. I had enough yarn to match the color pattern when I started a new skein—I just pulled until I was in the right place to continue. I also found that if I started the cast on with the blue section, the top i-cord and tassel were in the black and white patterned yarn, and I liked this look. The black and white colorway is very cool too.